

Tate House
Portland, Maine
COMBERLAND Co.

HABS No. ME-3

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ME

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

" TATE HOUSE "

Portland, (Stroudwater), Cumberland County, Maine

Owner

Colonial Dames of America-Resident in Maine

Date of Erection

1755

Builder

George Tate

Present Condition

Interior of the house in excellent state of preservation. Repairs have been made to original plastered walls. (Walls probably plastered after house was built). In the kitchen of the house, the white pine wood work has mellowed with age until it is colored a soft brown. The present kitchen walls plainly show where lath was applied over the sheathed partition, but all plaster has now been removed, and the walls are as they were originally constructed.

The front face of exterior appears to be as originally built. There have been some replacements of original clapboards but there remain a number of what appear to be hand made clapboards lapped with feathered edge. Rear and end walls and roof have been re-shingled. A one story extension has been added to the rear of the building.

Number of Stories

Three

Materials of Construction

The building is composed of oak and pine. Foundation of stone, with brick undorpinning. Interior walls plastered and panelled on all three stories. Wide pine board flooring. Massive chimney. Eight fireplaces.

Other Existing Records

Description of house, and brief history of the Tate Family given in Nason's "Old Colonial Houses in Maine."

Additional Data

The Tate House is a splendid example of the architecture of its time.

Additional Data-Continued

In its present custody, it is to be used as the headquarters of the Society of the Colonial Dames of America-Resident in Maine.

George Tate came to Stroudwater (which is now a part of the city of Portland) as mast agent for the King of England and was sent to Stroudwater to succeed Colonel Thomas Westbrook upon the death of Colonel Westbrook.

The house is built upon a knoll overlooking the Fore River. The King's pine masts were brought there for loading and shipping to England.

During the seventeenth century, Stroudwater was a thriving community with a population much larger than that of Falmouth as Portland was then called. Westbrook Street, on which the Tate House is located, was formerly the road used in travelling to Portland from Boston, as the only bridge over the Fore River was the Toll Bridge at Stroudwater. Therefore, in its day, it appears that the Tate House was located on a prominent site. It commands a fine view of the surrounding country.

Some of the data given here on the Tate House was obtained from Nason's book "Old Colonial Houses in Maine". Information was also given the writer by Mrs. A. S. Bosworth, who is an officer of the Society of Colonial Dames in Maine, and familiar with the history of the Tate House. Data was also procured from the Maine Historical Library files of Scrapbooks of Stroudwater. These Scrapbooks are made up from early newspaper clippings. Part of the material on the Tate House was written from observation.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved: *Josiah T. Tubby*

Date: *June 19 1936*

Renewed July 7 '36 T.T.W.